



# “THE PIFFER”

A Journal For The  
“*Differs*”

May, 1991



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“*Differs*”

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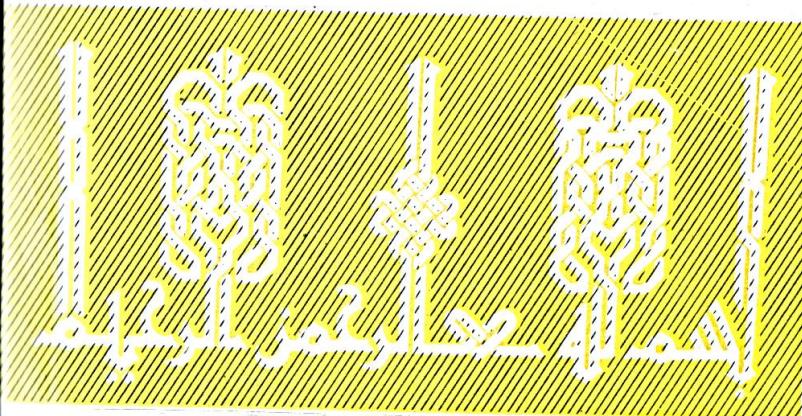
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33rd Frontier Force

CAPTAIN MUJEEB UR REHMAN QADRI  
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25th Frontier Force

*In the Name of ALLAH the most Gracious most Merciful*



***In the Name of 'ALLAH' the most Gracious most Merciful***

Once a PIFFER  
always a PIFFER

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is indeed a very well presented publication, rich in substance, informative and absorbing.

My appreciation and good wishes to the editorial staff for bringing out a quality magazine.

— BRIG. MALIK MUHAMMAD SALEEM KHAN  
JCA – Mangla

Our editorial board deserves a pat for the excellent job done.

— MAJ. GEN. MUHAMMAD ZAHOOR MALIK

It is really impressive and deserves appreciation.

— COL. MUHAMMAD YAMIN,  
AK Regimental Centre.

Indeed it is worthy of the Piffer standard. The work put in by the board is praiseworthy.

— GEN. MUHAMMAD IQBAL KHAN

The Journal is admirably edited to arrange the events at home and abroad. The compilation of various historical and extra curricular activities in your Journal is inspiring and serves as a true guide for those who desire achieving the highest standards of Regimental esprit-de-Corps. It speaks of the PIFFERS' usual pride in the Regiment.

— COL. MEHMOOD MALIK,  
Sindh Regimental Centre.

I am impressed by the high quality of the Journal.

— MAJ. BANARAS KHAN JADOO

The coverage of the Piffer Museum is commendable.

— MAJ. ASIF TANVEER

Due coverage be given to historical silver pieces held in the units, this would add to the quality of the magazine.

— MAJ. GULZAR HUSSAIN

## EDITORIAL

From the Editor's Desk

(*In the Name of ALLAH the most Gracious most Merciful*)

Dear Readers

It is a matter of great satisfaction for us to see *The Piffer* in the hands of our esteemed readers. We have made strenuous efforts to publish this issue in a befitting manner and we assure you not to spare any efforts in maintaining its glorious standard and decor in future.

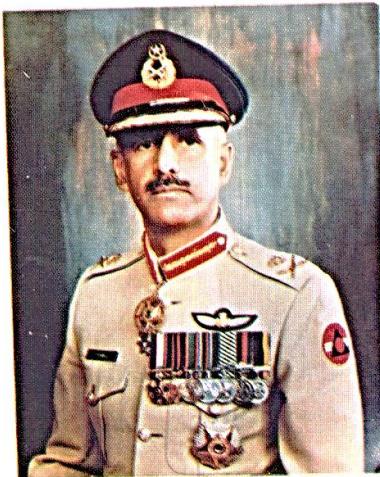
We repeat our annual request to our readers to provide articles for future journals and our thanks are also due to those who kindly provided them for publication. This time the contributions were encouraging but we had to be fairly selective to keep the volume of *The Piffer* limited.

We are grateful to those whose letters we received. Their praiseworthy words are indeed a source of encouragement for us.

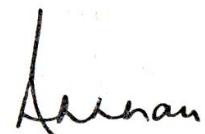
KHUDA HAFIZ & HAPPY READING

## COLONEL COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

We owe a great deal to *The Piffer Journal* which over the years had given the Piffers a common point of reference, and established a stage to unify their efforts and activities and mutual information on extra curricular activities.



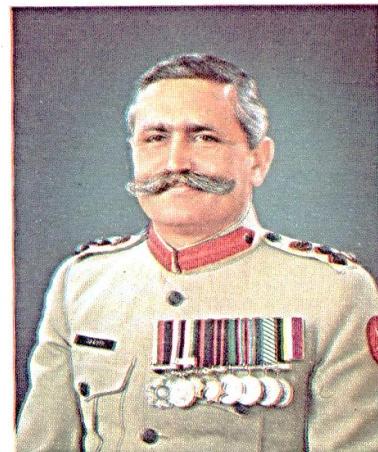
The importance of *The Piffer Journal* in unifying the Piffer family and maintaining its esprit-de-corp and decorum is praiseworthy, which I am positive will improve with time. My appreciation and very best wishes are due to the Commandant Frontier Force Regimental Centre and the Editorial Staff for including invaluable qualitative improvements in the Journal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ahmed" or "Kamal Khan".

— Lieutenant General  
Colonel Commandant  
(AHMED KAMAL KHAN)

## COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

The quality of *The Piffer Journal* depends upon the erstwhile contributions and this time the response was comparatively more encouraging. I appreciate and commend the efforts of all, who have contributed valuable articles for *The Piffer*.



I would like to remind our readers to share with us their candid and precious opinion for further improvement of this Journal.

In the end my compliments to the Editorial Board for successfully seeing *The Piffer* though the print.

Best Wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fazle" or "Qadir".

— Brigadier  
Commandant  
(FAZLE QADIR).

## QUAID-I-MILLAT & THE PIFFERS



9 Frontier Force (Wilde's) had a unique distinction of presenting a 'Guard of Honour' to the first Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, on 29 September, 1948 at Rawalpindi. The immaculately turned out guard was commanded by Captain (later Brigadier) Muhammad Nawaz – Now Colonel of the Battalion of Wilde's.



*An Extract re-produced from the Punjab Government Gazette placing the Punjab Frontier Force under the direct command of the C-in-C Indian Army. The Original Punjab Government Gazette ordering this change is preserved in the Piffer Museum.*

### EXTRACT

#### ORDER BY THE RIGHT HON'BLE THE VICEROY AND GOVERNOR-GENERAL

26TH JULY, 1886

"With the sanction of H.M. Government the Right Hon'ble the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council is pleased to notify the transfer of the Punjab Frontier Force, the administration of which hitherto been vested in the Government of the Punjab, to the command of the commander-in-Chief in India.

In doing so, His Excellency in Council is authorised to express the high sense entertained by H.M the Queen Express of the loyal and brilliant services which the Punjab Frontier Force has invariably rendered to the State from the earliest period of its creation.

In arranging the details of this change of control, the political exigencies of the Frontier have been kept in view, and every effort has been, and will be made to interfere as little as possible with the system of Frontier administration.

The Force will, therefore, continue as a separate unit for Frontier duties and, as far as practicable, its local and distinctive character will be preserved, its institutions maintained, and its existing privileges continued.

The transfer will take place from 1st August 1886, and His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council is confident that all ranks of the Force, British and Native, under the command of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, will spare no effort to uphold worthily the traditions of loyalty, discipline and bravery which have been handed down to them, and to maintain unimpaired the efficiency, esprit-de-corps and soldierly qualities which have gained for the Punjab Frontier Force honour and distinction, both in the field and in cantonments, and have raised this fine body of troops to the distinguished position of a fighting force second to none in the Army . . . .".

## PIFFER MUSEUM

OUR Museum is visited by many visitors round the year which provides them an opportunity in better understanding the long and glorious history of *The Piffers*. Some are so motivated that they generously add to the Museum's collection. We very much appreciate their kind gestures. For the benefit of our readers some extracts from the visitors book maintained in our Museum are reproduced below :

- It is a fine Museum where history is so visible.
- Visiting the Museum of Frontier Force Regimental Centre was an interesting experience. It was a real education for me. I came to know for the first time what a great Force, Frontier Force Regiment is.
- The Museum has impressed me immensely. This is the index of excellence of the Record and Service of the Piffers.
- A fascinating touch of history.
- A Splendid Museum.
- An excellent Museum which depicts the highest professional values and traditions which The Piffers have inherited and presently upholding, should inspire and motivate our new generation.
- What a wonderful collection.
- The most valuable treasure of our history.
- An impressive Museum which has some peerless relics of the past.

## HISTORICAL - UNIT CROCKERY

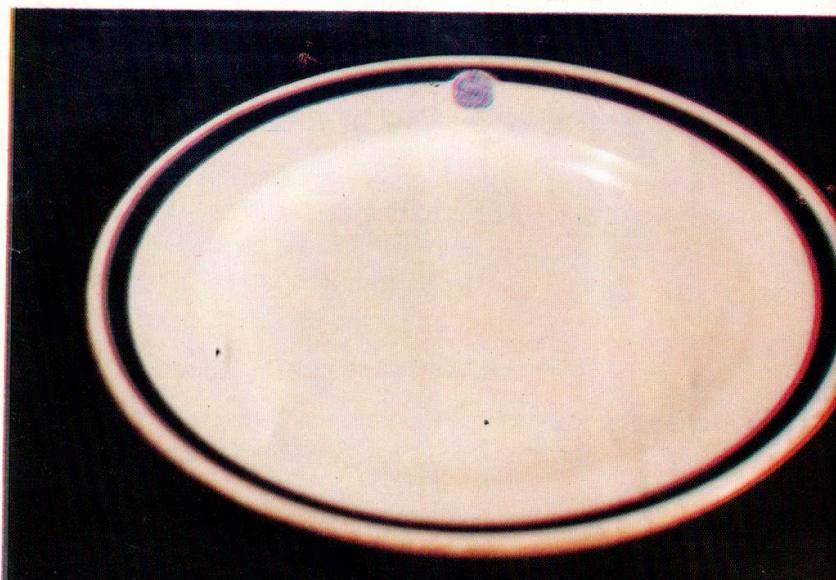
It is traditional among all units to implant their unit insignia on their crockery items. It is still followed as a Symbol, whereas many units possessing ancient crockery proudly display them in their messes. Some reflecting history dating back to over a 100 years. Some items preserved in our Museum are shown in these photographs.



6/13 Frontier Force Rifles (Garbar Unath-Now 1 FF)  
Made By Royal Worcester - England



2/12 Frontier Force Regiment (Bawanja - Now 4 FF) Made By  
Royal Worcester Apsley Pelatt & Co Ltd., England



Corps of Guides QVO Made By  
Crescent F.P. Baker & Co Ltd. London - England.



4/12 Frontier Force Regiment (Charwanja-Now 6 FF)  
Made By Royal Worcester - England.

## HISTORICAL UNIT PIECES

Some units are full of historical pieces having an interesting historical event attached to it. These pieces are dazzling beauties and are instant eye-catchers. We requested some of our units for sharing their beautiful historical pieces with the readers and they have very graciously sent their photographs. Some of them are displayed for you.

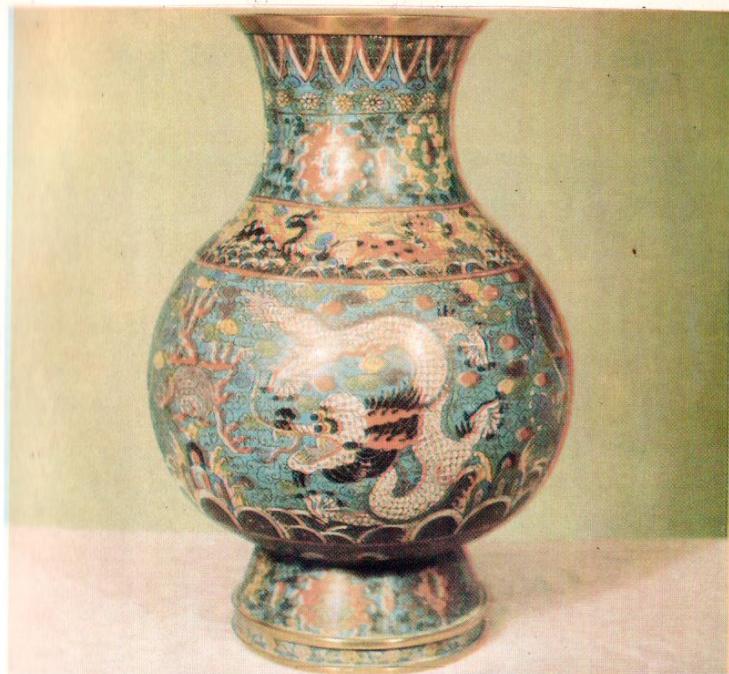


*Inter Regiment Polo Native Cavalry Cup Presented to the Guides Cavalry (FF) MESS.*

## JULLUNDUR BRIGADE TROPHY



This silver piece was presented to 6th Royal Battalion (Scinde) 13th Frontier Force Rifles now 1st Battalion the Frontier Force Regiment by the officers of the 1st Battalion The Manchester Regiment (Now 1st King Regiment) and 47th Sikhs Regiment (Now Sikh Regiment) in 1921. These three Battalions remained in the 8th Jullundur Brigade through the First World War in 1914. As a result of very close association, three identical silver pieces were made by each two Battalions and presented to the Third Battalion.



These beautiful flower vases were captured by the 1st Sikh (Now 3rd Frontier Force Regiment from the Chinese Palace in Peking during the Boxers' Revolution (1900-1903).





Memorabilia of Second Afghan War (1878-80) Presented to the Officers Mess the 2nd Sikh (Now 4th Battalion) the Frontier Force Regiment.



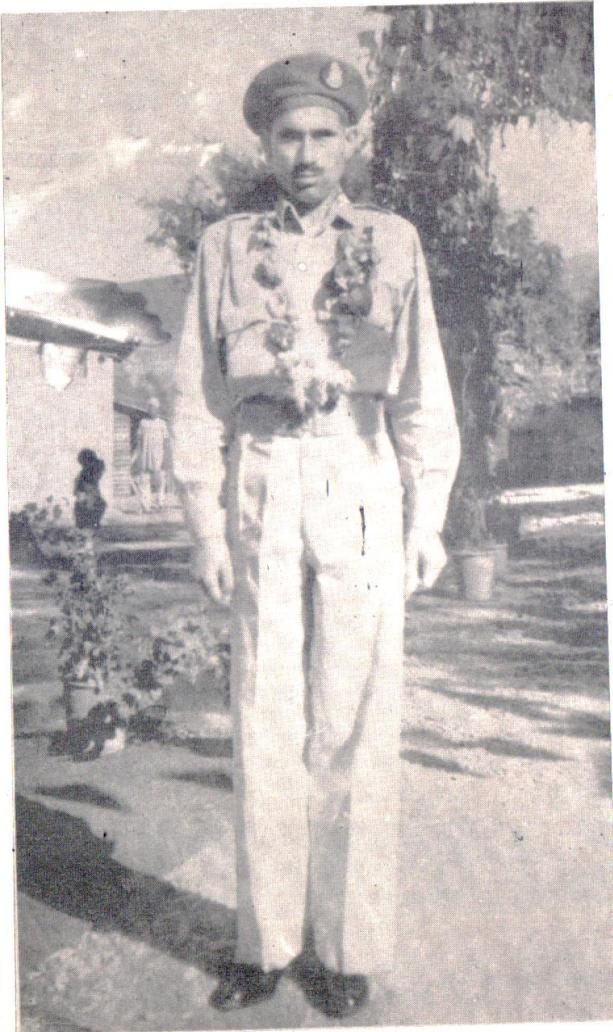
*This sword was presented to Major Jan Muhammad while serving in 6/27th Rajput Regiment by his Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel B. F. Montgomery (Younger brother of Field Marshal Montgomery of Al-Alamein) at Pan (Burma) in October 1945 for his Gallant Actions and distinguished field service.*

*Major Jan Muhammad further presented the sword to 12 FF as a momento of his infinite love and association with the Paltan. He not only served the Bn with devotion but has the distinction of Having both his sons*

*commissioned in 12 FF :*

*Major Zulfiqar Ahmed SJ who laid down his life valiantly at Akhora (Then East Pakistan) while serving with the Battalion. His second son Major Sarfaraz Ahmed*

*is also a devoted warrior.*



Sepoy Ali Haider, VC  
8th Royal Battalion (Scinde) 13th Frontier Force Rifles

#### CITATION

*6th Royal Bn (Scinde) 13 Frontier Force Rifles now  
1st Bn (Scinde) the Frontier Force Regiment  
Date of Act of Bravery 9th April 1945*

In Italy, during the crossing of the river Senior, near Fusignano, in daylight on 9th April, 1945, a Company of the 13th Frontier Rifles were ordered to assault the enemy positions strongly dug in on the far bank. These positions had been prepared and improved over many months and were mainly on the steep flood banks, some 25 feet high.

Sepoy Ali Haider was a member of the left-hand Section of the left-hand Platoon. As soon as the platoon started to cross, it came under heavy and accurate machine gun fire from two enemy posts strongly dug in about 60 yards away. Sepoy Ali Haider's Section suffered casualties and only three men, including himself, managed to get across. The remainder of the company was temporarily held up. Without orders, and on his own initiative Sepoy Ali Haider, leaving the other two to cover him, charged the nearest post which was about 30 yards away. He threw a grenade and almost at the same time the enemy threw one at him, wounding him severely in the back. In spite of this he kept on and the enemy post was destroyed and four of the enemy surrendered. With utter disregard of his own wounds he continued and charged the next post in which the enemy had one Spandau and three automatics, which were still very active and preventing movement on both banks. He was again wounded, this time in the right leg and right arm. Although weakened by loss of blood, with great determination Sepoy Ali Haider crawled closer and in a final effort raised himself from the ground, threw grenade, and charged into the second enemy post. Two enemy were wounded and the remaining two surrendered. Taking advantage of the outstanding success of Sepoy Ali Haider's dauntless attacks, the rest of the Company charged across the river and carried out their task of making a bridge-head.

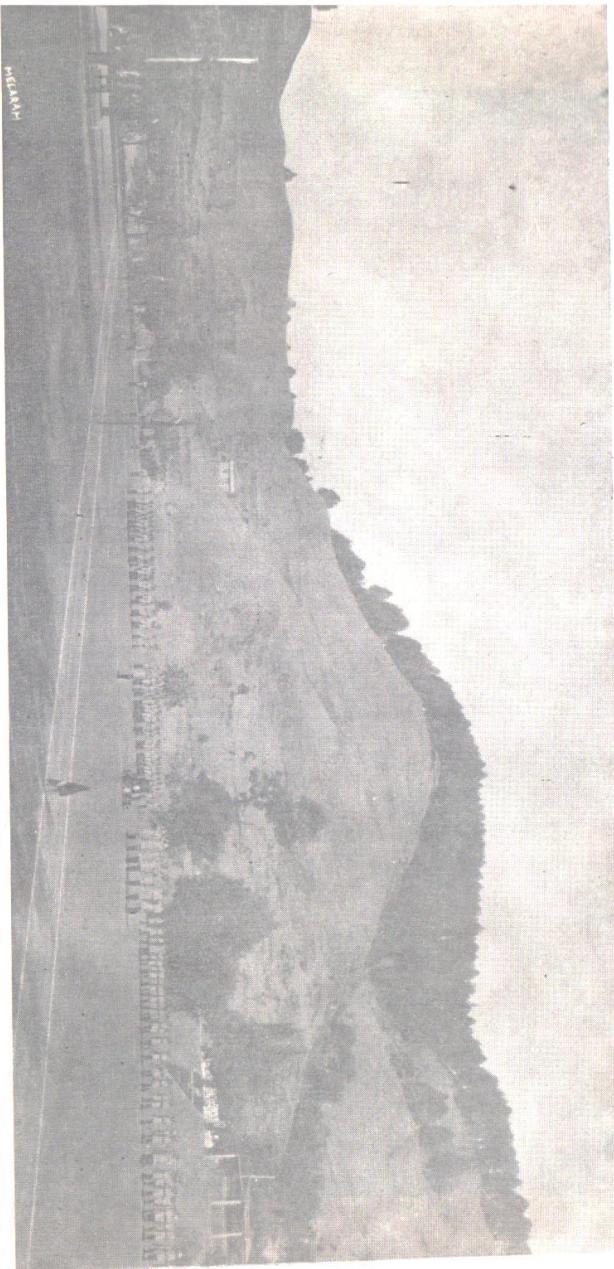
Sepoy Ali Haider was picked up and brought back from the second position seriously wounded.

The conspicuous gallantry, initiative and determination combined with a complete disregard for his own life shown by this very brave Sepoy in the face of heavy odds were an example to the whole Company. His heroism had saved an ugly situation which would – but for his personal bravery – have caused the Battalion a large number of casualties at a critical time and seriously delayed the crossing of the river and the building of a bridge. With the rapid advance which it was possible to make the Battalion captured three officers and 217 other ranks and gained their objectives.



Mr. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister, inspecting a Guard of Honour  
of Pathans of the 4th Bn. Frontier Force Rifles, commanded by  
Major Tor Gul at Nicosia, Cyprus, 1st February, 1943.  
Lieut.-Colonel C. E. Morris just behind  
the Prime Minister.

26



General Sir Claude Auchinleck C-in-C India  
taking the salute at the 13th Frontier Force Rifles  
Regimental Centre, Abbottabad, October, 1944.

27

"LETS COMPARE SWORDS"



3-1/2 year old Timothy Frew of Kensington, compares swords with Captain Iqbal Shah, 1st Pathan Regiment (Now 11 FF)



## 1ST PATHAN REGIMENT NOW 11 FF (FAST & FURIOUS)

BY

MAJOR KHAN AFZAL AFRIDI

*They were the first among Pathans and known  
for their deeds.*

*Chivalry & friendship were the hallmarks of their  
outstanding deeds.*

*Lab-baik is their Motto & glorious their past.  
Legendary is their speed & they march very fast.*

*Be it a treacherous desert or the deep snow.*

*They are ever ready and waiting for the "go".*

*There would be many but none like them.*

*And the fast and furious is one of them.*

*Play the tune and move with the beat.*

*Victory is their's and will kiss their feet.*

*United they remain like the ship and the mast.  
here was not a "battle" which they had lost.*

*Their valour IS known and earned a big name.*

*They fought many wars and earned big fame.*

*There would be many but none like them.*

*And the fast and furious is one of them.*

— PS - With due apologies of Rudyard Kipling and his like.

## BRIEF NEWS -- HOME OF PIFFERS

### Reunion - 1990 :

The arrangements for the Piffer Reunion 1990 started with the renewed zeal and enthusiasm aimed to excel all previous reunions in the best possible manner. The Centre Commandant frequently reminded the officers and Junior Commissioned Officers of the impending arrival of the veterans and the serving; their tastes and habits, stressing the need for their comfortable stay, recounting the events, happenings and good and bad points of the past. Their hectic task which lay ahead created a sinking effect. However, with each day nearing the tension eased as things started taking shape.

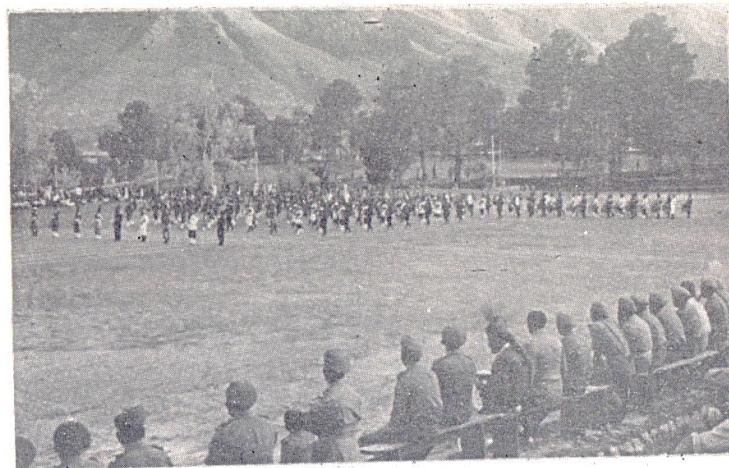
### Past History :

The tradition of reunion as recalled by the old stalwarts had been set by the Piffers. It was the Piffers who initially gathered the CO's and later called the pensioners for a get-together and exchange of views. After World War II the Piffer Week was held regularly at Kohat. Later when Abbottabad replaced Kohat as the Centre of activity, the first post-war Piffer Week was held in Abbottabad with great success.



PIFFER DINNER - 1949

In 1949 the first centenary took place in the first week of October at Abbottabad with great pomp and show. Over six thousand pensioners and serving soldiers participated.



BAND DISPLAY - 1949

*The Piffer Week had been a regular annual feature where as the reunions were held every five years. The reunion held in 1990 could also be called the 141st anniversary celebration as the Raising Day fell on 18 May, 1990.*

### Initial Preparation :

Traditionally accommodation was arranged for all COs and other serving and retired officers, Junior Commissioned Officers and other ranks. As was the practice all the messes, rest houses and some good hotels were reserved for the guests who were to attend the reunion. Families were also invited to enjoy the scenic beauty of Abbottabad in the month of May, 1990. The Centre and the Mess was glowing with multi-coloured lights. The trees in the mess were decorated with strings and bunting which gave an enchanting look. The lighting committee had taken pains to give a bridal look to the complete area. The 100 year old-dayar tree which stands in the centre of the mess stood with majestic grandeur, welcoming each guest with its open arms. The War Memorial was also appropriately decorated keeping in view the occasion.

## NARRATION OF EVENTS

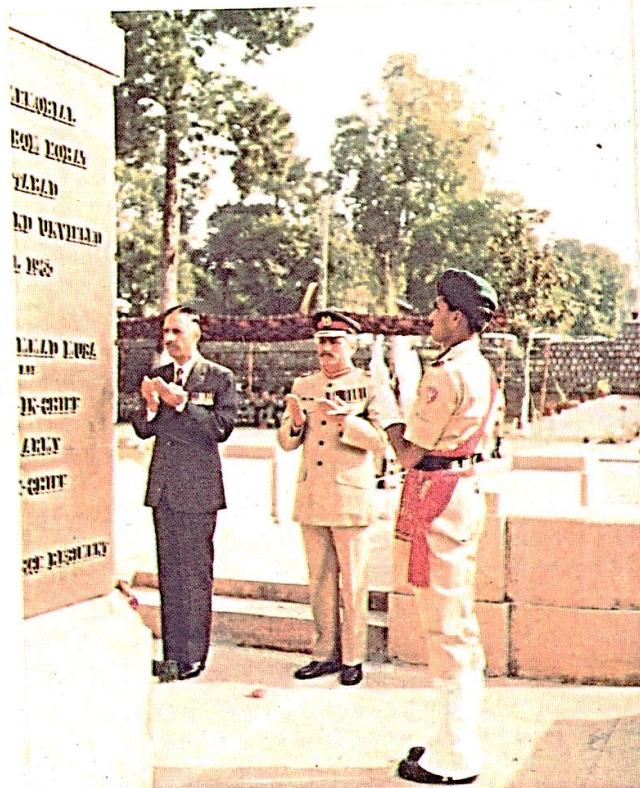
### Reception:

The reunion started with the reception of officers, Junior Commissioned Officers and other ranks on 13 May, 1990. The reception committee made sure that each guest was received in a befitting manner, providing conveyance which ever needed and information for the benefit of our guests. The task of the accommodation committee was a difficult one. The sanguinity and sensitivity of nature of the retired officers was specially kept in mind. Of course the serving had to be patient, but then thanks to all and sundry. They tolerated our unintentional mistakes, inclusive, the Piffers who attended. The senior serving and retired officers who attended were General Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Lieut-General Imran Ullah Khan, Lieut-General R. D. Bhatti, Lieut-General Abdul Waheed, Lieut-General Bakhtiar Rana, General K. M. Arif, Lieut-General K. K. Afridi, Lieut-General Ahmed Kamal Khan, Maj-General Shafique Ahmed, Maj-General Ghazi Ud Din Rana, Maj-General Ahmed Ali, Maj-General Shaukat Ali Shah, Maj-General Muhammad Akram, Brigadier Rauf Ahmed Khan, Brigadier Tor Gul, Brigadier Mian Taskin Ud Din, Brigadier N. A. Hussain, Brigadier M. M. Sarfaraz Khan and Brigadier Muhammad Safdar.

### 14 MAY

#### Wreath Laying:

The ceremonies of the reunion started on 14 May 90 with the Fajar Prayers and Quran Khawani. The same day the wreath was laid on the War Memorial in memory of the Piffer martyrs. This War Memorial was shifted from Kohat in 1964. It stands magnificently next to the mess lawn having been inscribed with the names of two Nishan Haider, six Hilal-e-Jurat, seventyone Sitara-i-Jurat, eightyfive Tamgha-i-Jurat, ninetythree Tamgha-i-Imtiaz and names of other martyrs of



the great Piffers. The ceremony was to be performed by Colonel-in-Chief General Muhammad Musa but his illness resisted him from attending. The Colonel Commandant General Ahmed Kamal Khan, therefore, was the Chief Guest. The ceremony was attended by officers, Junior Commissioned Officers and other ranks and pensioners in full ceremonial dress. The wreath laying ceremony was gorgeous, simple and magnificent. The smartly turned out guard commanded by Captain Ahmed Nawaz saluted the valour of the great Piffers martyrs. Fateh Khawani was offered and the chief guest saluted and laid the wreath. It was a grand ceremony worth witnessing. On this occasion we remembered all those who were not amongst us.

#### **Attestation Parade :**

The attestation parade, an important event, was performed in the afternoon. The Colonel Commandant was the chief guest. All the serving and retired officers, Junior Commissioned Officers and other ranks attended the parade. The chief guest recalled the glorious past of the regiment and commended the recruits for joining a regiment with high traditions and whose history is full of acts of supreme gallantry and chivalry. The Colonel Commandant appreciated the smartly turned out parade and was impressed by the high standard of training. He distributed prizes among those recruits who had achieved distinction during their training at the Centre in various fields.

#### **Basketball Championship :**

The basketball championship was arranged on league basis. The teams started the competitions well before the start of the reunion enabling the organisers to arrange the finals on 14 May 1990. Serving and retired officers were invited alongwith their families to witness the match. The final was played in the evening under search light. It was a fine arrangement and the spectators enjoyed the game. 9th Frontier Force managed to lift the trophy with comfortable ease. Wildes played as a well knit team and continued attacking their opponents. The match was rather one sided as the Wildes dominated the game from the word "go". With the Centre Commandant Brigadier Fazle Qadir being from this unit the whole Centre was backing them. 'Who can blame us under the 'circumstances! Many old friends called it manipulation to ensure a win for the Commandant's unit. 36 Frontier Force were the runners-up.

### **15 MAY**

#### **Commanding Officers' Conference :**

The Commanding Officers' conference started in the morning. The Colonel Commandant presided over the conference. This was a long and hectic day for the

commanding Officers. They were addressed by Director General Infantry, Military Secretary, Adjutant General, Quartermaster General and Inspector General Training and Evaluation. The same day the guests were invited for golf on the lush green acres of the golf club.

#### **Variety Show :**

In the evening a variety show was arranged separately for the officers and their families in the officers mess and for the Junior Commissioned Officers, Other Ranks and families in the Piffer Stadium. Talented artists from the Piffer Regiment and some fine outsiders entertained the gathering. The gleam of colourful light was a spectacular sight. Every one enjoyed the entertainment which continued till late at night.

### **16 MAY**

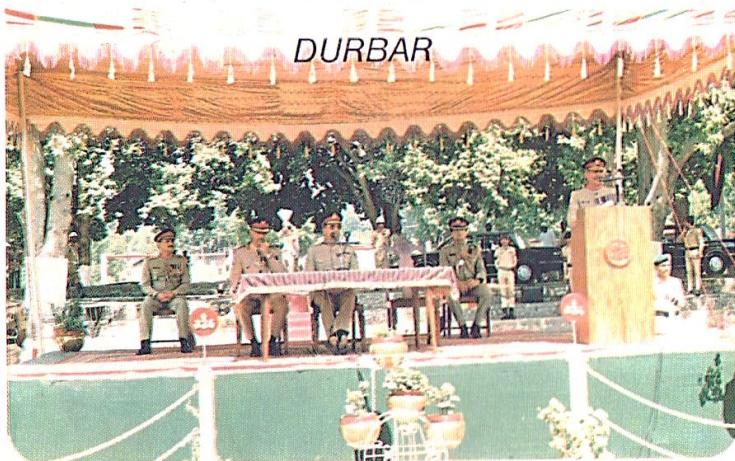
#### **Visit Quarter Guard :**

The Colonel Commandant visited the new quarter guard located at the height with huge lush green lawns surrounding it from three sides. It give a fine view from Mansehra Road. The new Centre Headquarter offices are also located just behind it which have now been inaugurated by the Colonel Commandant, Lieut-General Ahmed Kamal Khan. The well turned out guard was appreciated by him. The foundation stone of this new quarter guard was laid by the previous Colonel Commandant, General K. K. Afridi while the inauguration was performed by the late President General Muhammad Zia Ul Haq.

#### **Chief of Army Staff Arrival :**

The Chief of Army Staff arrived at 0930 hours. He was received by the Colonel Commandant, Centre Commandant Brigadier Fazle Qadir and other senior ranking officers. From the helipad he was driven to the lush green football ground which is bordered on both sides by symmetrical chinar trees. There he held his *durbar*. The *durbar* was attended by all ranks besides senior retired and serving officers. In his

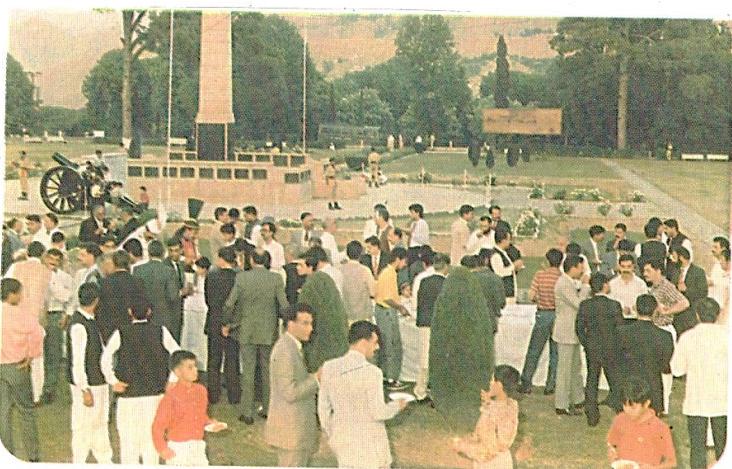
address he recollected the past and present achievements of the Piffers Regiment. Later he addressed the Commanding officers of the regiment in the Piffer Auditorium, after which he had lunch with Piffer guest officers. After playing a few strokes at the Golf Course (which the COAS normally makes a point not to miss) he departed for Rawalpindi.



*Officers Attending Durbar*



*Officers of Guides*



**Garden Party :**

Keeping in view the tradition a garden party was arranged in the lawns located between the officers mess and the Piffers Memorial. The guest officers who attended alongwith their families had the opportunity to have a free chit chat with the senior officers. The children took advantage of the occasion and had a free run in the lawns and a lot of soft drinks and cakes.

### **Bara Khana :**

Bara Khana was the final event on this day which was held in the Piffers Stadium. The stadium was colourfully decorated for this occasion. This was attended by a large number of guests. After the Bara Khana the traditional folk dances, and fire works were arranged. The Khattak dance, Mahsud dance and ludi dance were appreciated by all. Besides a variety show by troops was also arranged. The spectators were greatly amused by the show. The display of fireworks was breath-taking.

### **17 MAY**

#### **Firing Competition :**

*(Nishan-i-Haider Trophy)*

The firing competition for Nishan-i-Haider Trophy was held at the Piffer range. In all, 17 teams from different zones participated. The elimination round had seen 45 Frontier Force and 3 Frontier Force qualifying for the finals with 45 Frontier Force maintaining a 4 point lead. The final was witnessed by a large number of retired and serving Piffers. From the start, all went well for 3rd Frontier Force team who outclassed 45 Frontier Force and took away the coveted trophy for the first time.

#### **Band Competition :**

The elimination round for the Band competition started a week before the reunion. The Music School had very kindly provided the services of their experts for judgement. It was a tough task for them to make a selection out of such promising bands. The finals were held in the presence of all ranks, guest officers and ladies. 15 Frontier Force band was declared the winner while the runners-up trophy went to 12 Frontier Force. The Colonel Commandant distributed the prizes. Efficiency Trophy was awarded to 36 Frontier Force while 16 Frontier Force and 2 Frontier Force were placed second and third respectively. The Frontier Force regiment is one of the wings, instrumental in bringing about the persons of the units.

### **Piffer Dinner :**

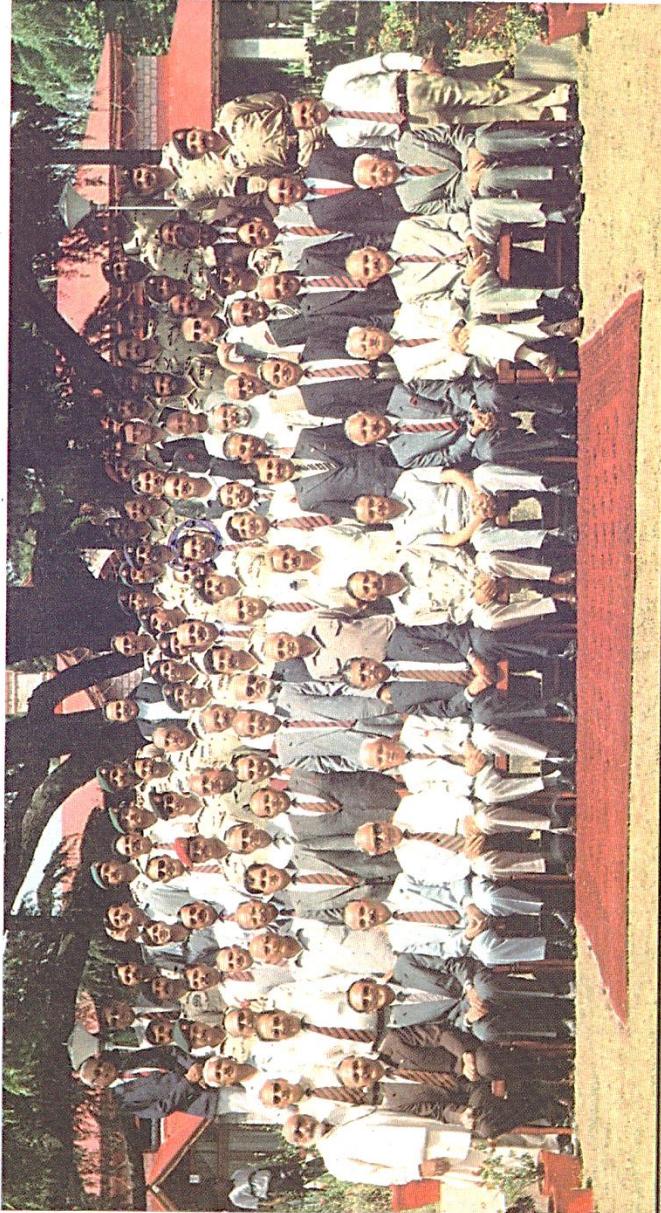
The Piffer Dinner is one of the main events of the reunion. The retired and serving officers considered it a privilege and honour to be invited on this occasion. A number of Piffer officers were therefore present to discuss the present and remember the past. Officers were seen behaving somewhat childishly, having hearty laughs and embracing old friends and acquaintances. The Piffer Dinner thus caused a stir and became the hallmark of the reunion. The number exceeded so much that the big dining hall seemed too small. After dinner speeches were made by the Colonel Commandant Lieutenant General Ahmed Kamal Khan and Lieutenant General Bakhtiar Rana on this occasion. The dinner was preceded with the display of the Piffer band.



*Lieutenant General Bakhtiar Rana Discussing  
The Present and Remembering the Past.*

#### **Mess Meeting :**

The Mess Meeting was arranged in the Piffer Mess attended by all serving and retired officers. The retired officers



were the most active and aired out their feelings openly. On this occasion a new Piffer anthem written by General Khalid Mahmood Arif and the Music composed by Khalid Ahmed, was presented and approved. To record the occasion, a group photograph of the retired and serving officers was taken.

#### **Football :**

Like other events the competitions for football were also played on knock-out basis. In all 16 teams from different zones participated out of whom 7 Frontier Force and 10 Frontier Force team reached the finals. The old stalwarts of both the units were seen enthusiastic in applauding their respective units. The finals saw 10 Frontier Force winning the competition. Since the Colonel Commandant and all senior retired and serving officers were present, as such, the occasion was also taken advantage of, for the distribution of prizes. The most important trophy of the year i.e. The Colonel Commandant.

#### **Piffer Trust Meeting and Colonels of The Battalion Conference :**

The Colonels of the Battalions met and discussed matters of variety of interest. The Piffer Trust meeting was also convened. It was attended by the Colonel Commandant, Centre Commandant and all committee members.

#### **Dispersal :**

Finally came the day of dispersal when all guests left with a heavy heart and pleasant memories. The Commandant Brigadier Fazle Qadir alongwith his staff was there to bid farewell and say a final "PA MAKHA DE KHA" and wish all a very happy return next year.

#### **Ladies Functions :**

The reunion was held at a time when the scenic beauty of Abbottabad was at its zenith. The accompanying ladies enjoyed the visit. During the reunion one function was arranged for the ladies each day. The lunch on 6 May 90 and the dinner on 17 May 90 was arranged side by side for ladies in the Piffer House. The ladies club had arranged their own



variety show on the dinner night. The guest ladies enjoyed the occasion immensely. The Child Welfare Centre function was attended by a sizeable number of ladies which included the local officers wives; and the families of the Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks. A sumptuous tea was arranged for them. The Junior Commissioned Officers

and Other Ranks families took active part in arranging the functions. The prize distribution and diplomas for the successful candidates of the Child Welfare Centre was done by Begum Brigadier Fazle Qadir. A variety show was also arranged on this occasion by the families which was highly appreciated. The ladies coffee party arranged in the Piffer Golf Club was an enjoyable feature. The ladies also enjoyed the garden party especially the children who also participated. The credit for the success of the ladies party goes to Begum Fazle Qadir and the centre is greatly indebted to her for making positive contributions towards the welfare and social activities of our families in the Centre.

## GOLF

### Piffer Golf

The Piffer Golf Club lies in the beautiful city of Abbottabad, city of towering and majestic chinar trees, which encompass the entire Valley in its laps. While standing in the Piffer Golf Course a player not only enjoys the game but also appreciates the breath-taking scenario. It seems the heaven is under his feet and he feels heavenly while viewing the towering but delight sublime Surban Dacca, the quiet but beautiful Simla Hill which is laden with tall trees, the snow clad mountain ranges leading to Thandiani in the front and the rising tops of Kaghan in the west. Truly, the Piffer Golf Club is in the nucleus of all this beautiful scenery, as such making it a class above all the other Golf courses in the country. In view of the enchanting natural scenes, the honorary secretary of the Piffer Golf Club Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Amin Khan deserves appreciation, whose sincere efforts have made the Golf Course more important and beautiful. Many dignitaries and veterans have honoured the course by playing in it, including Lieutenant General Bakhtiar Rana, who recollects his hey-days he spent playing Golf in the Course. He even knows the number of trees in the area which gives us an idea of his love for this place. Besides him many dignitaries including foreign diplomats have also

graced this Golf Course. As such the Piffer Golf Club is quickly developing an international fame and reputation.

Golf Championships played during the year were :

#### **All Pakistan Governor Golf Championship :**

All Pakistan Governor Golf Championship was held between 1-13 July 90. In this championship 96 players participated in men, boys and veterans events. They included teams from Gymkhana Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan, Peshawar and Karachi. Lieut-General Bakhtiar Rana was the chief guest at this auspicious occasion. The management of the Piffer Golf Club catered for the boarding, lodging and food of the players, who were given free stay facility. In this championship veterans like Lieut-General Bakhtiar Rana, Lieut-General Ahmed Kamal Khan, Lieut-General R. D. Bhatti, Maj-General Ghazi Ud Din Rana, Maj-General M. Mumtaz Khan, Brigadier Rauf Ahmed Khan and Brigadier Muneeb Ur Rehman Farooqui participated, The winners and runners-up were as follows :

- \* The "Hole in one" honour went to Maj Muhammad Alam.
- \* Doctor Ali Zaman was declared the best player, while Brigadier Zaffar Hayat was the runners-up.
- \* Zeeshan Ali won the net match. He also won the boys gross event.
- \* Brigadier Muhammad Nawaz won the veterans' net event.
- \* M. Hameed was declared the best in the boys event.
- \* Asad Sikandar was the best net player amongst the boys.
- \* Sikandar Khan was declared the junior most player.

The Chief Guest Lieut-General Bakhtiar Rana gave away the prizes and appreciated the performance of the players.

#### **Pakistan Military Academy Golf Championship :**

Major Muhammad Alam (Guides) of Frontier Force Regiment lifted the Pakistan Military Academy Golf Trophy held at the Piffer Golf Ground. In this tournament a total of 18 holes were played in which Major Muhammad Alam with 83, won the gross event followed by Lieut-Colonel Syed Mushtaq. Brigadier Khalid Javed Shah Commandant Baluch Regimental Centre bagged the net trophy with 68 while Lieut-

#### **Piffer Golf Championship :**

The Piffer Golf championship was held on 18 May 90 at the lush Piffer Golf Club. The matches were held on "gross" basis. The Trophy was clinched by Lieut-Colonel Muhammad Aslam whereas Major Muhammad Alam a member of the Abbottabad Golf Club was declared the runners-up. The interesting part is that both the officers carded equal scores, but later the positions were marked on a better second round performance. Lieut-General Bakhtiar Rana was the Chief Guest on this auspicious occasion. After the matches the chief guest gave away the prizes. The championship was attended by a commanding gathering, prominent among them being Lieut-General Bakhtiar Rana, Lieut-General R. D. Bhatti, Lieut-General Ahmad Kamal Khan, Major General Shafique Ahmed, Major General Ghazi Ud Din Rana, Major General Ahmed Ali, Major General Muhammad Abid Zahid, Major General Muhammad Akram, Brigadier Tor Gul, Brigadier N. A. Hussain, Brigadier Zaffar Hayat and Brigadier Rauf Ahmed Khan.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FROM HERE AND THERE

**W**E have received numerous letters and greeting cards from our old affiliated Piffers. Their feelings strengthens our belief in the quotation. *Once a PIFFER always a PIFFER.* We wish them all a very happy and prosperous year.

### LIEUT-COLONEL PHILIP SALUSBURY – TRELAWNY :

Wrote to reciprocate with all good wishes to the Commandant and all Ranks of Frontier Force on Christmas and New year said :

"Your annual seasonal greetings are always most welcome no less so after a gap of 45 years and more".

### FREDERICK TAYLER :

Sent best wishes for Christmas and New Year. The most appealing and exquisite aspect of his card was the illustration on the front page, indicating the 3rd (Prince of Wales) Dragon Guards).

Served in 2/23 Frontier Force Rifles from 1942-46. He wished the Commandant and all ranks with the season's greetings and good wishes for the new year. He was also kind enough to send us a Divisional emblem of 26 Indian Division (1939-45) which showed an Indian Tiger in a blue triangle.

### LIEUT-COLONEL PONSONS SMITH

Thanked the Commandant for being so kind and helpful to his grandson David Peilt who in his own words "Thoroughly enjoyed himself".

### COLONEL C. F. ALLEN

His beautiful card illustrated parts of Scottish highlands covered with snow at this time of the year. He wrote :

"As I write this snow is forecast for most of Scotland. Living 30 feet from the sea we generally do not get snow".

### MAJOR & MRS. D.A.T. WILSON

Served with Ekwanja from 1940-1946. His Piffer spirit reflected in his words, "Up the Piffers". Accurately.

### PAT AND BOB

His warmest wishes and hopes that all was well with us was thankfully received.

### J. KING MARTIN

Thanked for the wonderful visit he had with us last February.

### ANTHONY ABRAHAMS

Thanked us for making his stay so delightful. He promised to send some photographs of his stay with us. His impression can be expressed in his own words :

"May I say how smart was the Quarter Guard, how keen the young Jawans recently recruited, how efficient and caring their instructors. The officers we met made us feel at home immediately. It was a moving and wonderful experience for us, including Major Muhammad Amin who suffered my golf performance and Major Muhammad Saleem at the marvellous Museum". We felt, I, we both wished we were 40 years younger and back with you.

### LIEUT-COLONEL I. A. EDWARDS - STUART

Appreciated our kindness and nice reception accorded to his friend Captain James Frankland. He found our brochure on Piffer Museum most interesting and pointed a few mistakes. We assure him we have changed them according to his references.



*Visiting the Museum*



*Exchange of Souvenirs*

**Logistic School Officers :**

A delegation consisting of 3 x Directing Staff and 13 x Students officers from the Army School of Logistic Murree visited us on 19 July 1990. They were briefed by the Commandant and were later taken around the training area. A visit to the Museum was of great interest to them. Later they were entertained for lunch in the Piffer Officers Mess which was followed by exchange of souvenirs.

**Allied Officers - Staff College :**

Allied Officers from Staff College alongwith their wives visited us on 2 September 1990. They were shown the Piffer Museum and the Piffer Memorial. Later a dinner was arranged in the Piffer Mess which was appropriately decorated keeping in view the occasion. Dinner was followed by speeches and change of souvenirs.

## CITATION

### Chumick Operation :

Chumick Glacier lies at a height of 23,000 feet in the areas of Siachen, North East of Pakistan. Due to repeated clashes and fighting going on in the Siachen glacier area, Chumick has become a very important and dominating sector since it dominates and provides easy access to the Bilafond Glacier held by Pakistan.

On 17th March 89 the Brigade Commander was flown by an Aviation Lama helicopter piloted by Major Shahab and Captain Zia, a Piffer. When flying over own artillery observation post position they monitored movement of enemy troops. They had established a few camps and were climbing a mountain which, if occupied by them, could have given them opportunity to dominate the complete Chumick Glacier. The Brigade Commander directed the Commanding Officer of the Infantry Battalion whose troops were deployed in the sector to occupy the feature before the enemy.

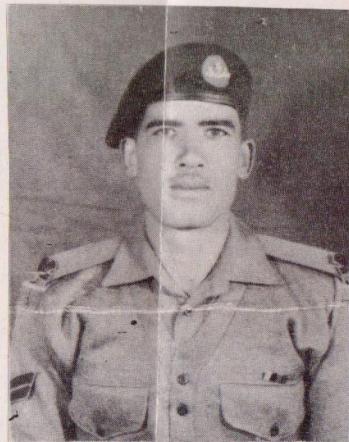
After two days of tireless efforts of climbing the feature, on 19th April, the Forward Commander Northern Area who was present at the Battalion Headquarters asked the Army Aviation to drop a few jawans on the top of the feature. Conventional landing was not possible. It was then decided by the pilots to sling the troops under the helicopter and drop them on top of the feature. Captain Sehgal and Zia Ud Din (Now both Majors) of the Army Aviation were selected to undertake this unique task.

On 19th April 89 the first volunteer officer Lieut. Naveed (Now Captain) was dropped on top of a feature whose height is 21500 ft creating a new record in the history of Army Aviation. The same day Naik Yaqub (Now Havildar) Special Service Group was also dropped on the top: This feature was then named Naveed Top, after the first man on top.

On 21th April 1989 Captain Zia Ud Din and Raheel Sehgal dropped 14 more officers and jawans thus taking the strength on Naveed Top to 16 all ranks. Captain Naveed, Captain Kamran, Havildar Yaqub and Captain Sehgal were awarded Sitara-e-Jurat. Captain Zia was awarded Imtiazi Sanad for displaying valour in this operation. He was, however, later awarded a Tamgha-e-Basalat in March 1990.

Captain Zia Ud Din is, a highly motivated, selfless and zealous officer, who on 19 April 1989 as Co-Pilot with Captain Raheel Sehgal landed the first man in the history of military warfare at 21500 feet. The assigned task was conducted at the extreme aircraft limits and human capabilities. Success of the mission was only possible due to the exemplary devotion, enthusiasm, courage, display of the highest standard of professional competence by the two pilots – one of them Captain Zia Ud Din, a Piffer.





#### Citation of No. 3445581

##### L/Hav Khaki Jan (Shaheed) :

On 12 September, 1965 Number 3445581 Lance Havildar Khaki Jan was Commanding Recoilless Rifle detachment in the forward defended locality ground Khem Karan when Indians launched a battalion attack supported by a squadron of armour.

With heavy odds against him and particularly when there was only one Recoilless Rifle (his) in the area it was indeed depressing to see the enemy tanks close up to round own infantry elements. Every thing looked gloomy but Lance Havildar Khaki Jan kept his nerves, allowed the enemy to come well within the range and then with great determination, courage and fighting spirit knocked out three tanks thus bringing the enemy armour to a halt and beating back the enemy attack. Lance Havildar Khaki Jan was severely wounded and finally gave up his life in the gun position. Lance Havildar Khaki Jan displayed great courage and devotion to duty and loyalty to his comrades and Battalion. He sacrificed his life for the country and saved the situation for his Battalion.

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF PIFFERS

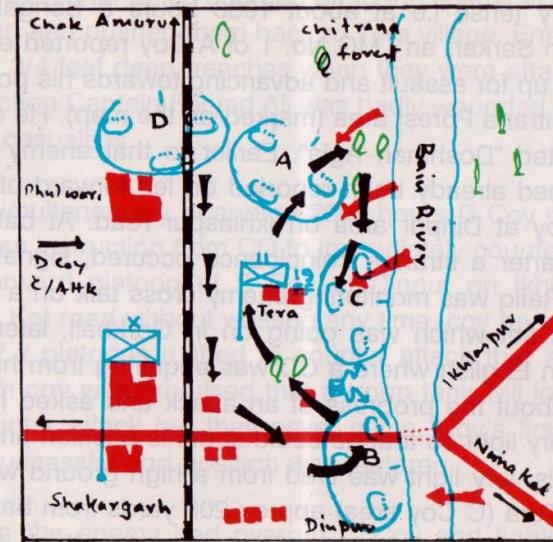
### DALER COY - 19 FF (THE PIFFERS TIGERS)

### COUNTER ATTACKS IN SHAKARGARH

### SECTOR - DEC 71 WAR

BY

(COL HAMID MAHMOOD)



This action is a first hand account of some achievements of D Coy 19 FF (The Piffers Tigers) during Dec 1971 war. It is difficult to narrate the details since this action was undertaken two decades ago. It was full of courage, heroism and devotion to duty by all ranks of the coy in a true Piffer style.

In this short but exciting operation on the border area of Jalala Band Ikhlaspur and Berikhurd where the coy (DCoy) was acting as bde Advance Position, was finally

ordered to RV at Shakargarh perimeter defence, night 9/10 Dec 71 as part of battalion defence. It was a tactical withdrawl under enemy observation and its main threat coming from Chak Amaru. At Shakargarh the coy was ordered to defend northern axis facing Chak Amaru and also to act as battalion reserve.

The situation on night 14/15 Dec 71 at Shakargarh was very tense i.e at about 1930 hours a Bengali Lnk Suleman Sarkar, an LMG No. 1 of A Coy reported enemy forming up for assault and advancing towards his position from Chitrana Forest area (marked on the map). He quickly shouted "Doshman Agia". Earlier to that enemy's first attack had already been reported on left forward platoon of B Coy at Dinpur area on Ikhlaspur road. At battalion headquarter a strange coincidence occurred, signal JCO N/Sub Rafiq was monitoring enemy cross talk on a spare wireless set which was going on in Gorkhali, later they spoke in English where a CO was enquiring from his coy comd about the progress of an attack and asked him to fire a very light so that he could spot his position and visit him. This very light was fired from a high ground west of village Tera (C Coy area) approx 200 yards from battalion headquarter. The entire battalion was under attack, C Coy was overrun. Left forward platoon of B Coy defending important road Ikhlaspur - Niana Kot was reported overrun. Enemy had penetrated C Coy defences and other enemy's strong elements were pressing A Coy's depth platoon and Mortar platoon was also under attack. Entire battalion was under intense enemy artillery shelling.

It was an occasion for demand of greatest heroism and most conspicuous courage in circumstances like this that the CO (Lieutenant Colonel Shafiq Ahmed, SJ) embarked upon a mission to defend the motherland by

launching battalion counter attacks to uphold the lofty traditions of Piffers and the desire to shed their blood in the name of Allah. All ranks of the battalion headquarter were collected including one of D Coy platoon remaining at original position on Chak Amaru axis was given under command Adjutant Captain Faryad Ali, others consisting of Subedar Major Gulin Khan, MT Dvrs Clerks, Doctors, Dhobies, Barbers and Sweepers etc, CO personally led these elements which charged on to the enemy at the high ground and pushed them back to Tera village. Enemy had made 3/4 feet deep trenches when they were attacked. In this action Captain Faryad Ali was badly wounded besides other casualties.

Simultaneously at approx 2000 hours D Coy received wireless instruction from CO to immediately counter attack left forward platoon of B Coy at Dinpur on Ikhlaspur - Niana Kot road without wasting any time, coy headquarter with 2 x platoons rushed to counter attack that area. Although coy was promised that a troop tank will join them in counter attack but they never came. Coy's first attack was successful and position was restored.

As the enemy had overrun C Coy and fighting was going on in Chitrana village in A Coy area and Tera Village, CO had appreciated the main attack of the enemy from north and D Coy was ordered to immediately return to battalion headquarter leaving 1 x platoon to strengthen B Coy to defend important road Ikhlaspur - Niana Kot axis where coy first encounter was with 4 Gernadier who fled away in darkness leaving behind some dead and POW. At 0100 hours after completing first task DCoy headquarter and No 11 Platoon and pioneer platoon (which was collected enroute) reported to battalion headquarter. Meantime a troop of tank from 33 Cavalry had also arrived. CO

quickly briefed the coy comd for next task that was to counter attack Chitrana Forest and Tera village where Lnk Suleman Sarkar of A Coy and Mortar Platoon were involved in fighting. Enemy at a short period had made well prepared defences in the village by linking each house through crawl trenches. Trenches were made inside court yards of houses, passage holes from house to house were made.

D Coy Comd was confident of his men who had behaved so well with courage and devotion worthy of all praises, although the coy had suffered casualties in first counter attack and had almost dashed over ten miles area and undertaken an assault. Distance from D Coy location to B Coy was approx 8 - 10 thousand yards one way. In the spirit of enthusiasm, bravery and heroism, the D Coy (No 11 Platoon and Pioneer Platoon) and troop tank charged on to the Chitrana Forest. The spirit of sacrifice was so overwhelming that one Sepoy Sikandar who was rushing forward was overrun by own tank. The action showed sharp encounter with 1 x MG crew firing who were overpowered and captured. Enemy left their dead and ran out of the forest as they succeeded in rushing out in darkness. The CO who was following behind on wireless ordered the coy to clear and re-establish C Coy position in Tera village, where the fate of this coy was not known as Coy Comd Maj Afzal's dead body was found tied up with a tree by a telephone wire and his back was riddled with bullets. C Coy Havildar Major Alam whose stomach was cut with bayonet breathed his last. The bayonet was also recovered from enemy POW and preserved.

D Coy headquarter, No 11 Platoon and Pioneer Platoon approx strength 75 men, later attacked at Tera village where the enemy was well dug in and in a

desperate hand to hand fight and with a clever move of Coy Havildar Major Sawar Khan who managed to get on top of a house, the coy by morning had captured enemy's 3 x offrs and 47 x OR from 3/9 Gorkha Regiment and men from 1st Mahar near Chitrana Forest and Tera village. The severity of the fighting is evident by the fact that enemy left behind many dead and wounded (3 x en offrs i.e Major Surway who was badly wounded and other 2 Lieutenants were made POWs). Later 23 enemy OR were captured on the east of Tera village who were trying to escape. Besides this large quantity of arms and ammunition was captured. After the war unit officially returned 63 dead bodies to 3/9 Gorkha Rifles and 10 dead bodies to 4 Gernadiers whereas own casualties were 19 Shaheeds and 38 wounded. In short D Coy performed the following actions :-

Counter attacked throughout the night as follows :-

- a. Counter attack B Coy area (Dinpur - Rd Ikhlaspur)
- b. Counter penetration by 12 Platoon under the Adjutant Capt Faryad Ali at Tera village.
- c. Counter attack by 12 Platoon and under Lt Col Shafiq Ahmed & SM Gulin Khan personnel at village Chitrana.
- d. Counter attack by Coy headquarter, 11 platoon and pioneer platoon at Chitrana Forest (A Coy - Mortar platoon positions).
- e. Counter attack Tera village and involved in hand to hand fight for recapture of the village.

This is an attempt to encompass in one small note action of 19 FF (Piffers Tigers) with some details of D Coy which I had the honour to command, this coy was involved in a hand to hand fight from the word go at 2000 hours to 0800 hours on night 14/15 Dec 71. The planning and conduct of action under a forceful and energetic leadership of the CO and inspired by him to undertake such a stirring record of achievement of the unit was made possible by our motto "Labaik" and the desire to lay life so that others may live.

There was such an immense amount of work, energy and enthusiasm which was put into to evict the enemy so skilfully that very few encounters in Pakistan Army's history must have experienced where a unit/coy launched four counter attacks in one night. The courage, vigilance, wit, accuracy, determination, boldness and above all faith in the glory of Islam displayed by all ranks of Piffer Tigers in true Piffer style has been well recognised in Piffer family. For this action 19 FF was awarded Battle honour of Shakargarh.

It will be unfair to mention without referring to many grievous losses of the coy/unit sustained to an action fought with such a valour, skill and ferocity and those who earned coveted distinction of 'Shahdat' and whereas remainder emerged as 'Ghazis'.

### Who's Saying What? Who's Doing What!

#### 1 SP (FF) :

GENERAL SAWAR KHAN : The General usually graces the unit and shows keen interest in its activities. His visit on last Phillura Day to 1 SP stands testimony to this.

LIEUT-GENERAL S. M. ABBASI : Is always wanted by the unit in their regimental functions.

LIEUT-GENERAL JAHAN DAD KHAN : Remains busy with a noble cause – setting up of the Al-Shifa Eye Hospital at Rawalpindi.

LIEUT-GENERAL SYED RAFAQAT : He is always found advising and taking keen interest in the activities of his unit officers.

MAJ-GENERAL MUHAMMAD ASLAM MC : Is always eager to answer the unit calls at all occasions.

MAJ-GENERAL CH. ABDUL REHMAN KHAN : As member of the Federal Services Tribunal, remains busy in dispensing justice. He still finds time to visit 1st SP off and on.

MAJ-GENERAL MALIK ABDUL WAHEED : After retirement, he has been re-employed as DG Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation.

LIEUT-GENERAL BAKHTIAR RANA : The General is often seen playing golf at Lahore. We are keenly awaiting his coming to Abbottabad.

LIEUT-GENERAL REKHMAN GUL : Leads a simple retired life in Peshawar and keeps himself busy by reading.

**GENERAL MUHAMMAD IQBAL KHAN :** The Colonel of the Battalion continues to keep in close touch with the Paltan (as well as the Risala). 1 FF which also has a claim on him, reports his going out for occasional shoots and long walks in Westridge, Rawalpindi.

**MAJ-GENERAL MUHAMMAD MUMTAZ KHAN :** Is busy with his business at Mansehra. He has of late entered another part time business politics.

**BRIGADIER MUHAMMAD HAYAT :** Lives at Peshawar and takes time off occasionally to drop a line to the unit.

**BRIGADIER JAVED KHAN :** Is engrossed in mechanised farming in his village near Mardan. Well, what else could you expect from a technical person like him.

**GENERAL K. M. ARIF :** The General is enjoying good health and relishing the bliss of retired life. His imaginative capabilities are drawing him gradually to good and exquisite literary achievement.

**LIEUT-GENERAL AHMAD KAMAL KHAN :** Living in Rawalpindi the General is having a nice time after retirement. He usually honours us by his visits and interest in Regimental affairs.

**MAJOR GENERAL RIAZ ULLAH :** The General is having an attentive spot light in the media and the press because of his services and can be seen in a pleasant mood whenever met. We are eagerly awaiting his visit to us at Abbottabad.

**MAJOR GENERAL SHAFIQ AHMED :** Is now-a-days taking active part in Golf and has taken it up seriously as a second profession. Retirement and physical problems have'nt been able to harness the General's capabilities.

## **UNIT BRIEF**

### **1 SP**

The 1st saw change of Comd in Oct. 1990 Lieut-Colonel Khalid Masood Malik took over from Lieut-Colonel Tariq Yaqub as new Commanding Officer. Phillura Day of the unit was celebrated with great fervour and zeal. Lieut-General Syed Rafaqat initiated the idea of holding regional get-together as such 1st of 1st was arranged at Rawalpindi which was availed to bid farewell to Major General AKM Khalil Ur Rehman out going Director General Artillery and welcome Lieut-General Khalid Latif Moghal as new Colonel Commandant of the Artillery.

### **Guides Cavalry (FF)**

The year 1990 saw the unit under canvas on the border. It got 'very good' results in the technical inspection. The unit was visited by Maj General chaudhry Muhammad Nawaz, Major General Jahan Zeb (Retd) Brigadier and Colonel Baharamand Shah. The 144 Raising Day was celebrate dbohgt the Paltan and Risala at Kharian and Jhelum respectivelyk which was wound up with music by a pipe band for a change. Brigadier Amir Culsitan Januja is the new Colonel Regiment. major General Jahan Zeb compeleted his tenure and was appointed Colonel of Corps of Guides. 2 FF received an invitation from Royal Hurras Briton, affiliated with Guides, to attend their new Guidon Award Cemremony. The CO and 2IC were prevented by exigencies of service but Major General Jahan Zeb and Captian Adnan Januja attended had grant time and were looked after well.

### **24 Cavalry (FF)**

The unit was visited by various dignatories during the year 1990 which included Major General Khalid Latif Mughal, Lieut-General Sahgir Hussain Syed, Maj-General Sajjad Hussain, Maj-General Mumtaz Gul, Lieut-General Pir Dad Khan, Lieut-General Chaudhry Sardar Ali and Brigadier Muhammad Aslam. They won 1st position in zonal championship of Discuss Throw.

### **41 Horse (FF)**

The unit gained "importation of a Bridge Head". It had the

honour of operating for the first time Heavy Rebuild Factory Assembled Tank which participated in Pakistan Day Parade. The unit received distinguished guests like Lieut-General Muhammad Zulfiqar Akhtar Naz and Major General Maqbool.

#### **2 FF**

The year 1990 was an eventful year for the Guides. They began the year basking in the light of the extra ordinary activities. It kept the unit on its toes but gave it a high gloss. Guides were visited by UK High Commissioner and Army Attache. By the end of January, Lieut-Colonel Sardar Amjad Naeem Durrni having completed two eventful years of command moved on to a new prized appointment, while another professional son of the Paltan Lieut-Colonel Syed Sabahat Hussain, assumed the mantle of command.

#### **4 FF**

The unit presented guards of honour of many dignitaries during the year 1990 which included President and PM of Pakistan on 23rd March 1990. PM of Japan, General Necip Toromptay Chief of the Turkish General Staff, Ambassadors of Czechoslovakia, Romania Lebanon and Sudan. The unit achieved laurels in various training/sports competition in 1990. They were 2nd in Para Non-Central matches, 1st in Piffer Inter Zonal Football Championship, 1st in Inter Units Snipers, MG, Hockey and Wrestling Championship.

#### **6 FF**

The Battalion welcomed its distinguished guest Major General SC Misra (Retired) accompanied by Brigadier Anwar Ul Haq in whose honour a lunch and a get-together was arranged. They were also visited by Lieut-General M. Attiq-Ur-Rehman, Colonel of the Battalion. The unit also tried their hand at learning to swim during the Summer Collective Training and practice assault across a water obstacle.

#### **7 FF**

The year 1990 saw the Cokes down at their new station handling the affairs in their traditional Chattaka fashion. "CHATTAKS" won the Corps Football Championship and performed General Elections duty. Two chattak officers were selected for participation in para competition. The Cokes

were visited by Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, Minister of Finance Senator Sartaj Aziz, Colonel Commandant FF Regiment Lieut-General Ahmad Kamal Khan (Retired), Lieut-General Shafiq Ahmed and Lieut-General Hameed Gul. Cokes saw the change of command where for the 1st time since independence, a second generation officer, Lieut-Colonel Azam Effendi T.Bt. took over command of the CHATTAKS from Lieut-Colonel Kamal Aziz.

#### **11 FF :**

The unit performed the wreath laying ceremony of 11 FF, 15 FF and 16 FF at the Joint War Memorial which was done by Major General Hakeem Arshad Qureshi (Retired) alongwith Commanding Officer Lieut-Colonel Masood Parwaiz and Brigadier Sarfaraz Khan (Retired). They won all but one sports competitions of Armed Bde Group. The unit was visited by Lieut-General Pir Dad Khan, Lieut-General Chaudhry Sardar Ali. They praised the operational preparedness and training of the unit. The unit has earned an award of Rs. 10,000 by COAS General Mirza Aslam Beg for their performance in assault across water obstacle.

#### **14 FF :**

The battalion got into stride with the dawn of 1990. Change of command took place when Lieut-Colonel Mahmood Shah departed and handed over command to Lieut-Colonel Muhammad El Edroos. The unit participated in Golden Jubilee Joint Services Pakistan Day Parade 1990 and displayed the first indigenously manufactured APC. The unit displayed their superiority in various competitions by winning Match No. 5 & 7 in para non-central matches, 3rd position in "Para" meet besides winning Firing, Football, Basketball, Cross Country and Wrestling Championships in the Formation. The unit was visited by COAS, General Mirza Aslam Beg alongwith Lieut-General Zulfiqar Akhter Naz in July, 1990.

#### **16 FF :**

The battalion arranged a "Piffer Get Together" in late 90s. It maintained its high standard of competency and efficiency by winning champion trophy in non-central para matches, first position in RR and Pioneer platoon competition, COAS Comendation Card for excellent standard of its Mechanical Transport Platoon, 1st position

in Army Hundred Rifle Match, besides maintaining its standard of excellent individual performances in Army Courses.

#### **19 FF :**

The Tigers continued displaying their prowess and supremacy in the year 1990. Their sniper team stood second in division shoot competition. The Tigers saw change of command when Lieut-Colonel Inayat Ullah Khan Naizi handed over the command to Leut-Colonel Hussain Ahmed Afzidi. Nineteens were honoured to receive Maj-General Muhammad Amin Khan Burki, Major General Shafiq Ahmed (Retd.), Brigadier Mumtaz Malik (Retd), and Brigadier Faud Ahmed (Retd).

#### **21 FF**

Ikees is living upto the high traditions of the Piffer family. It won non-central para meets. Ikees saw change of command when Lieut-Colonel Amir Azam, the second generation officer of Ikees took over the command of the Paltan. They were visited by Lieut-General Pir Dad Khan, Lieut-General Chaudhry Sardar and Major General Mumtaz Gul, who donated Rs. 5,000/- for the Children Education School and Major General Tariq who donated Rs. 50,000/- for the welfare of troops.

#### **23 FF :**

JARRARs saw a change of command when Lieut-Colonel Saeed Ahmed Khan took over the unit. They won various firing competitions and were honoured by COAS Commendation Cards. Jarrars celebrated their Silver Jubilee with great pomp and spree.

#### **25 FF :**

The Battalion spent a hectic but enjoyable tenure during 1990. It was awarded the National Standard and Regimental Colour by Lieut-General Ahmed Kamal Khan. The ceremony was attended by a large number of serving and retired Piffers. A simple but impressive ceremony was held to install Brigadier Iftekhar Ahmed Khan as Colonel of the Battalion. The 25th celebrated its 25th Raising Day in a befitting manner. They participated in the 23rd March Joint Services Parade and were declared the best contingent. They saw change of command when Lieut-Colonel Akram

Paunwar took over from Lieut-Colonel Mohayyud Din Noman.

#### **26 FF :**

"KHARA SHAGAF" celebrated the Shaheed Day in which the Colonel of the Battalion Major General (Retd.) Hakeem Arshad Qureshi was the Chief Guest.

#### **30 FF :**

The Battalion saw change of command when Lieut-Colonel Raja Imtiaz became commanding officer. The Paltan won various train-ing/sports championship. The unit received commendation card for the excellent performance of its officers.

#### **31 FF :**

"IKTEES" saw change of command when Lieut-Colonel Hameed Ur Rehman took over. Iktees secured 1st position in Officer Firing and *Qiraat* competition. They were visited by CAOS, General Aslam Beg, Brigadier Fazle Qadir, T.Bt. and Lieut-General SFS Lodhi (Retd.)

#### **32 FF :**

'Jannisars' saw change of command when Lieut-Colonel Muhammad Aslam Khan pioneer of the paltan took over. They proved worthy of their name with the overall performance during the year.

#### **36 FF :**

'Chatees' won the much coveted Pelican Division of efficiency trophy and was declared champion unit of the year. A get-together was arranged on the visit of Major General Muhammad Mumtaz Khan (Retd). Chatees were honoured by visits the COAS. General Mirza Aslam Beg, Major General Muhammad Tariq Khan and Major General Muhammad Mumtaz Khan (Retd.)

#### **38 FF :**

The Battalion saw change of command when Lieut-Colonel Abdullah assumed command. They celebrated their Raising day and were visited by various dignatories like Brigadier Muhammad Ashraf, Brigadier Saleem, Major General Muhammad Shafiq, Major General Muhammad Tariq. The unit proved its excellence by winning various training-sports competitions.

#### 42 FF :

"BETALEES" won various sports events like Piffer Zonal Football Championship and Piffer Zonal Band Competition. The Battalion was visited by Lieut-General Abdul Waheed, Major General Bilal Ahmed, Centre Commandant, Brigadier Fazle Qadir and Major General Muhammad Akram.

#### 43 FF :

The unit besides making golf course won various firing, cycling, kabbadi and cross country championship. The unit was honoured to received COAS General Mirza Aslam Beg.

#### 45 FF :

The Battalion celebrated its 7th Raising Day in a simple manner. It won Piffer Zonal Firing and Nishan-e-Haider firing championships besides various other sports event.

#### 46 FF :

The Paltan besides performing various duties saw promising chart toppers in various events. Major Qazi Naeem Ullah Khan and 2nd Lieut. Muhammad Musa secured 1st and 2nd position respectively in various courses and contest while Naib Khateeb Hafiz Muhammad Rafique stood 3rd in them.

#### 47 FF :

47 saw the year 1990 bringing more achievements and greater military efficiency. Lieut-Colonel Fasih Ali Anwar continued to command the unit with same vigour and dedication. Under him unit got first position in the Nishan-e-Haider Trophy Championship and second position in Match No. 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 of 77 non-central matches.

#### OBITUARY

General Muhammad Musa who joined Army before the inception of Pakistan and became C-in-C of Pakistan Army and Governor of Balochistan, died on 12 March 1991 at the age of 83. At the time of death he was serving as the Governor of Balochistan. He remained in this capacity from 1985-1991. General Musa joined Army as a sepoy at the age of 18 and got commission in 1935 in 13 FF Rifles. Before partition he served as GSO I, Asstt. Director of Intelligence Bureau of Government of India, Assistant Secretary Armed Forces, Assistant AQMG Behar and Orissa. After 1947 he joined Pak Army and was made GSO I in Lahore, got promotion and in 1950, he became DCOAS in 1957 and became C-in-C of Pakistan Army in 1958. He remained on this post for 8 years and lead the Pakistan Army during Indo-Pak War of 1965. General Muhammad Musa remained Colonel Commandant of *The Piffers* from 1962-1965 and remained Colonel-in-Chief of Piffers from 31 August 1964 to 11 March 1991. He was the author of two books. His services towards the country and the Armed Forces will be remembered ever after.

\* \* \* \*

Major General Syed Shoukat Ali Shah got commissioned from Indian Military Academy in 1936, was awarded the sword of honour, and posted to 1 FF. He served with the Battalion during 2nd World War. During Kashmir Operations in 1947-48 he commanded 8 FF. In 1949 he went to Kabul as Military Attaché. In 1950-51 he was posted to Quetta as Station Commander and in 1952 he commanded the Kotli Brigade. Later on he went to London as Military Advisor and remained there from 1953 to 1957. General had the honour of being first Pakistani Commandant of Pakistan Military Academy and remained on this post from 1957-58. He was promoted to the rank of Major General in 1958. After PMA he went as GOC 12 Division and in 1962 he commanded 15 Division till 1983. From 1964 to 1966 he remained as Permanent Military Deputy in CENTO at Turkey. From 1966 to 1967 he remained as Chief of

Protocol; in 1967 went to Madrid (Spain) as Pakistani Ambassador. In 1970 he got retired. Major General Syed Shoukat Ali Shah breathed his last on 23 Feb 91 leaving behind one widow and five children. He was a devoted Piffer and a true 59er. His two sons served in FF. His son Lieut-Colonel Syed Sadaqat Ali Shah commanded 1 FF from 18 Jul 89 to 7 Jun 91.

\* \* \* \*

Major General Muhammad Abid Zahid was commissioned in Army in 1943 from Indian Military Academy. He served at key posts as instructor PMA, copy office and GSO-II in PMA Kakul, Instr Command and Staff College and GSO-I MO Dte. He went to China as military attache in the embassy of Pakistan. He held Prime posts like DCGS and VCGS and commanded an infantry division just short of his retirement. Major General Muhammad Abid Zahid retired on 1 Sep 1973. He left us in 1991. May Allah rest his soul in peace - *Ameen*.

\* \* \* \*

It is with profound sorrow and grief that we mention the sad demise of our brothers-in-arms. May Allah rest their souls in eternal peace. We take this opportunity to extend the Piffer's heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

Maj Gen. Roger Ekin, died in Mar 1990.....	10 FF
Brig SRC Daniel (Retd) .....	Guide Cav (FF)
Lt-Col Ghous Muhammad Malik (Retd) .....	2 FF
Lt.-Col. Mirza Iqbal Hussain.....	Guide Cav (FF)
Maj. Sher Muhammad .....	2 FF/19 FF
N/Sub/Clerk Ahmed Sher .....	13 FF
Sep Hamid Ullah.....	42 FF
Sep Rafaqat Khan.....	24 FF
Swr Syed Abu Ashraf.....	Guides Cav (FF)
Rect Muhammad Farid.....	FF Centre
Rect Azmat Ali.....	FF Centre
Swpr Aminyal Masih .....	23 Cav (FF)
Spwr Yousaf Masih.....	23 Cav (FF)



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